(b) The setting of a separate National Commission for Scheduled Tribes will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of all matters relating to the Scheduled Tribes in a substantial and continuous way.

(c) A bill is being introduced.

Constitution of National Centre for Calamity Management

2869. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a National Centre for Calamity Management under the National Calamity Contingency Fund Scheme, if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(b) whether Government have taken a decision to provide special assistance to the States facing natural calamities of rare severity by levying surcharge on taxes as provided under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) Schemes, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) A proposal for the establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in the Ministry of Home Affairs has been initiated. The NDMA will *inter alia* be entrusted with the functions earlier proposed for the National Centre for Calamity Management (NCCM).

(b) The expenditure on response and relief for natural calamities is met primarily from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The contribution of the Central Government and the concerned State Government to CRF is 75% and 25% respectively. For calamities of severe nature where CRF is not sufficient, additional assistance is provided from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the concerned State Governments to meet the expenditure on providing immediate relief to the victims of the natural calamities.

Assistance to Rajasthan under NCCF

2870. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether while assessing the assistance to be made/provided to Rajasthan under para 6.1 of the National Calamity Contingency Fund

Scheme, Government would take into account the balance of unutilized funds under CRF of the previous year; and

(b) in case the State has incurred excess expenditure under CRF in the absence of adequate assistance under NCCF, during that year whether such excess expenditure would be adjusted against the accrued of CRF in subsequent year, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir, as there is no such provision in the Scheme.

Drought in Rajasthan

2871. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers the present drought situation in Rajasthan to be worse than that in 1987-88, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) what financial assistance was provided by the Union Government to Rajasthan during 1987-88 for drought relief;

(c) what would be the estimated expenditure on similar relief activities at the current prices for the current drought; and;

(d) what assistance Government propose to provide to Rajasthan under NCCF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) During the current year, many parts of Rajasthan are under a severe drought, as was the case in 1987-88. A total assistance of Rs. 668.168 crore was extended to Rajasthan for drought relief between 1st April, 1987 to 31st July, 1988. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the likely expenditure on relief activities relating to current drought. The High Level Committee for sanctioning assistance from NCCF has assessed the requirement of the State till the middle of January, 2003 at Rs. 207.68 crore, which is within the available balance in the CRF of the State *viz.* 216.92 crore.